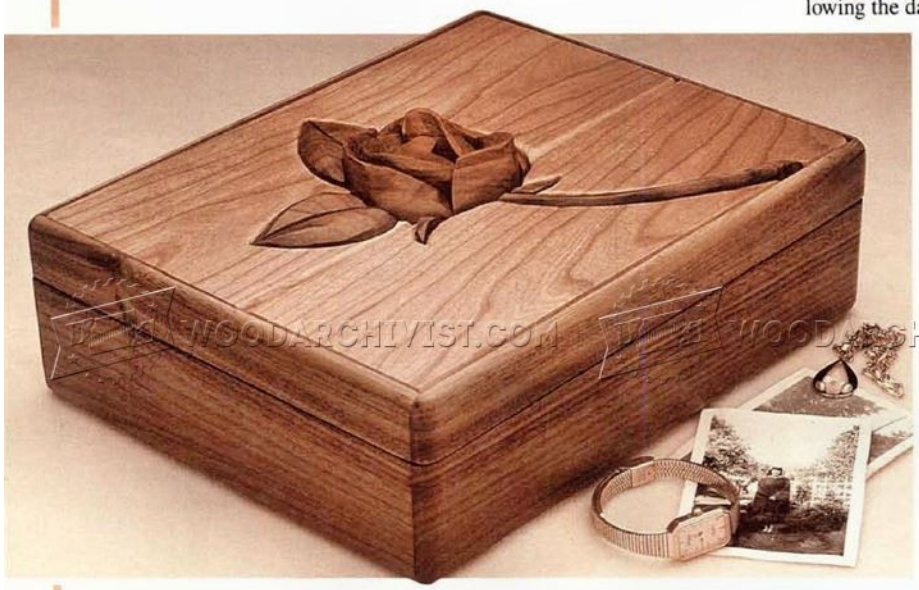
A GEM OF A KEEPSAKE BOX



Great for jewelry or precious momentos, here's a rose-adorned box begging to be used. And, you'll have to look for a long time before you find one with a more attractive lid. But don't let the sculptured rose frighten you—power tools simplify its carving.

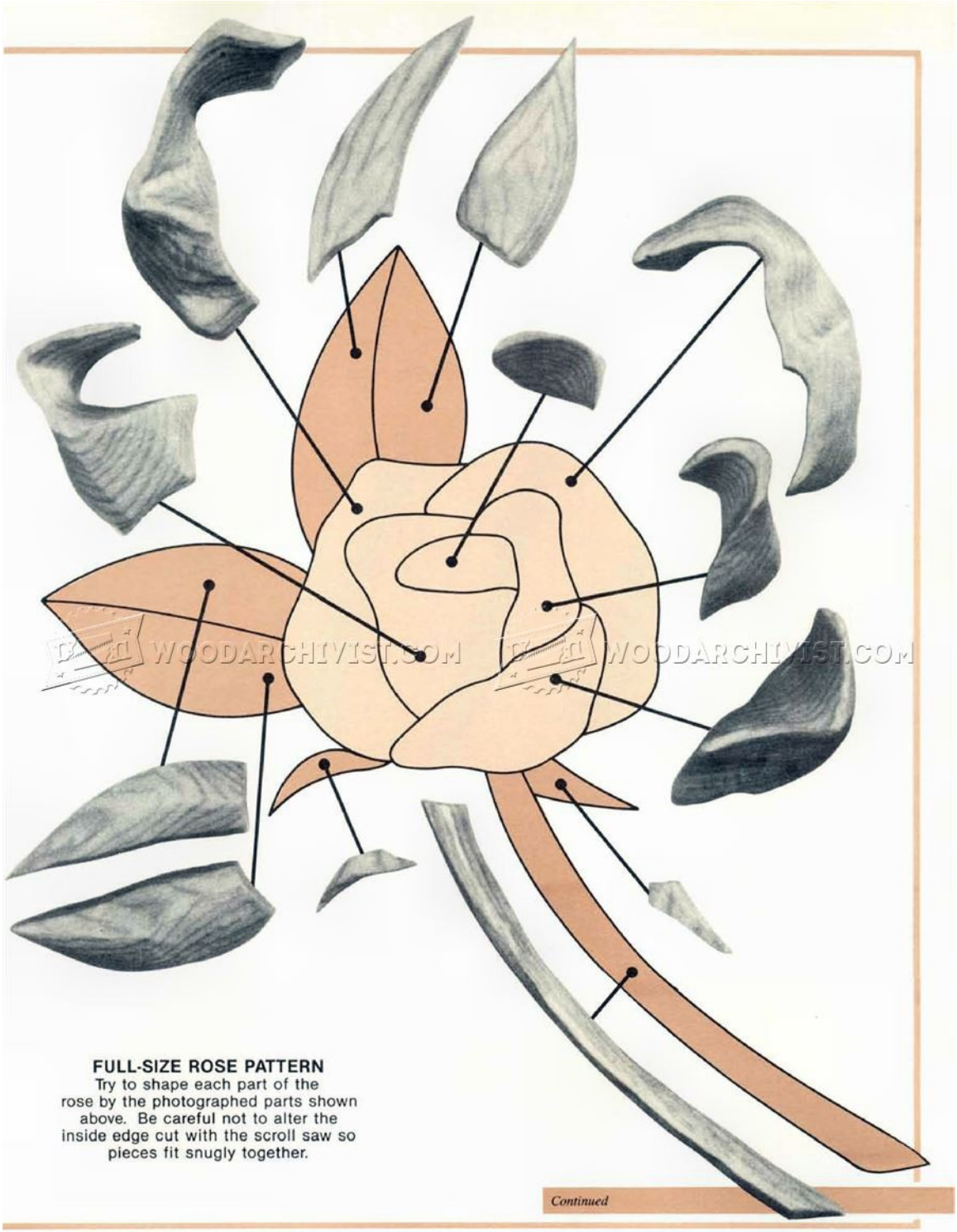
HERE'S HOW TO FASHION THE ROSE

1 Rip and crosscut a ¾"-thick piece of padauk to 3×3¼" for the rose petals (A). (We made the rose bloom out of padauk to create a color contrast between the rose and the box lid.) Using black carbon paper, transfer the full-size bloom pattern to the padauk. Following the dark, continuous line, cut out the petals with a scroll saw.

Note: *This project requires a small amount of ½"-thick walnut and ¼"-thick cherry stock. You can plane or resaw (using a band saw or table saw) thicker stock to obtain wood with these dimensions.*

2 Rip and crosscut a piece of ½"-thick walnut to 1½×12" for the stem and leaves (B). Again, using carbon paper, transfer the full-sized stem and leaf patterns onto the walnut. Cut the parts to shape.

3 Using the individual parts photographs on page 5 as a guide, sculpt the petals, stem, and leaves to achieve a three-dimensional rose. Sand or carve each petal piece, working away from the ridges. Do not remove material at the base of the individual parts or they will not fit back together properly. Duplicate the scallops, curves, and flat sloping surfaces where shown. (We shaped the outside curves and flat surfaces of each piece on a stationery belt sander, and sanded the inside curves and scallops with a ½"-diameter drum sander. [See the drawings on page 6.] We also experimented with a rotary power carver that was equipped with a ½-inch diameter drum sander and



FULL-SIZE ROSE PATTERN
Try to shape each part of the rose by the photographed parts shown above. Be careful not to alter the inside edge cut with the scroll saw so pieces fit snugly together.

Continued

found it equally effective for all surfaces.) In shaping the leaves and stem, taper away from the center ridges to the edges, again varying the angle of the slopes. Finish-sand all of the parts by hand.

NOW LET'S BUILD THE LID INSERT

1 Rip and crosscut one piece of ¼"-thick cherry stock to 3½×9½" (C) and one to 4×9½" (D). To accent the joint between the cherry pieces, sand a slight roundover along the top mating edges on both pieces.

2 Tape the cherry pieces together side-by-side. Then, arrange the assembled petals, stem, and leaves on the panel where shown on the Box Assembly Drawing. Trace the rose and stem outline onto the cherry, then remove the tape and scroll-saw the outline.

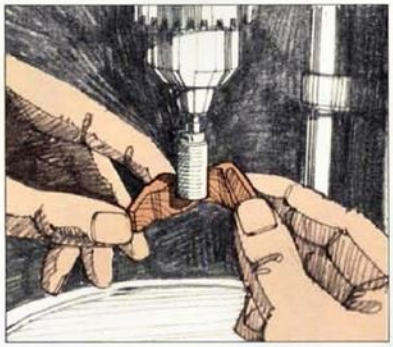
3 Cut the two plywood panels (E) to the size listed in the Bill of Materials. (We used ¼" cherry plywood.) Now, glue the rose parts and the cherry panels to one of the plywood panels to form the lid insert. (You want the plywood's best side facing inside the box.) Set the lid insert aside for now.

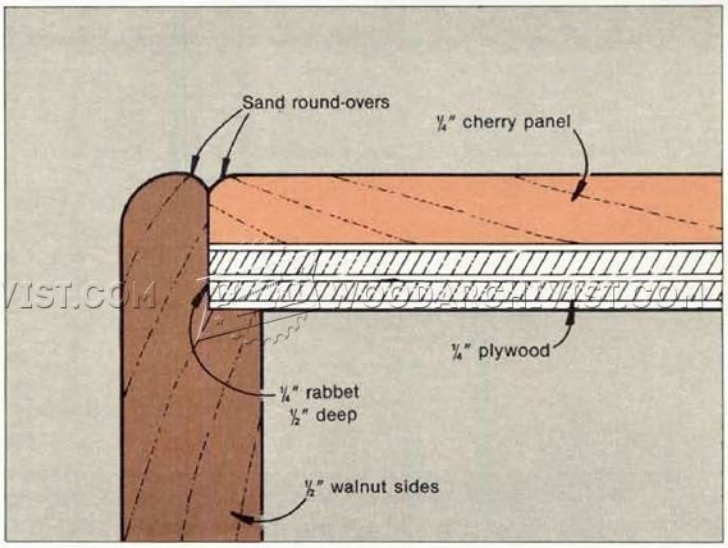
AND NOW FOR THE BOX

Note: *We assembled the box as a unit, then cut it in two on the table saw to form the lid and box.*

1 To make the box, first rip enough ½"-thick walnut to 3⅛" width for the front, back, and ends (F, G). Then, crosscut the walnut pieces to the lengths listed in the Bill of Materials.

2 Using a dado blade or a rabbetting router bit, cut a ¼" rabbet ½" deep along the top edges and a ¼" rabbet ¼" deep along the bottom edge of all four pieces (F, G) where shown on the Box Assembly Drawing. Also cut a ½" rabbet ¼" deep along the ends (inside edges) of the front and back pieces. Sand all surfaces until smooth.





3 Glue and clamp the box sides and ends together, then check the corners for square.

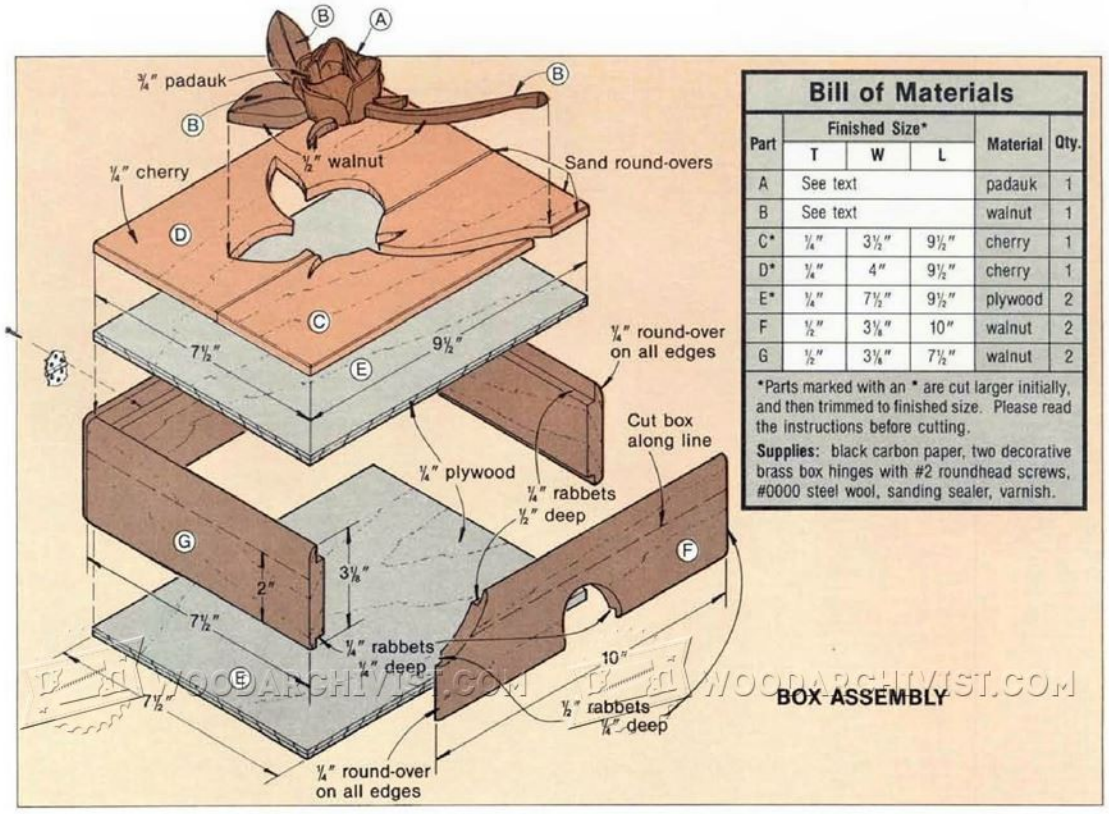
4 Secure the box frame to a sturdy work surface and rout a ¼" round-over on all corners and outside edges.

5 Fit the lid insert and bottom plywood panel into their respective rabbets. Trim the pieces if necessary. (Make sure the best side of the bottom panel faces the inside of the box where it will be seen each time you open the lid.)

6 Sand a slight round-over along the top outside edge of the cherry panel and the top inside edge of the rabbet where shown in the drawing *above.*

7 Glue and clamp the lid insert and the bottom panel into the appropriate rabbets. To avoid squeeze-out, apply only a thin line of glue along the rabbets. Let the glue dry.

8 To separate the box into its two parts, raise the saw blade ⅝" above the table surface, and position the rip fence 2" away from the inside face of

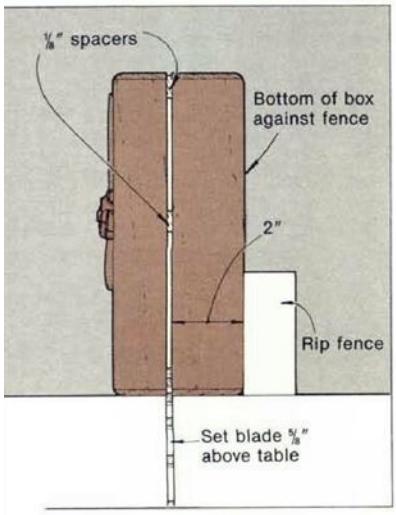


Bill of Materials

Part	Finished Size* T	W	L	Material	Qty.
A	See text			padauk	1
B	See text			walnut	1
C*	¼"	3½"	9½"	cherry	1
D*	¼"	4"	9½"	cherry	1
E*	¼"	7½"	9½"	plywood	2
F	½"	3⅛"	10"	walnut	2
G	½"	3⅛"	7½"	walnut	2

*Parts marked with an * are cut larger initially, and then trimmed to finished size. Please read the instructions before cutting.

Supplies: black carbon paper, two decorative brass box hinges with #2 roundhead screws, #0000 steel wool, sanding sealer, varnish.



the blade. (See the drawing *left*). Start the saw and cut the two ends and one side of the box. Then, tape ⅛"-thick spacers in the saw kerfs and make the final cut on the remaining uncut side to separate the box and lid.

9 Sand all surfaces smooth and finish the box's interior and exterior as desired. (We applied two coats of sanding sealer, rubbed with steel wool between coats, removed any remaining particles after rubbing with a cloth, and finished with two coats of satin varnish.)

10 Clamp the box and lid together. Rest the box on the front side and position the hinges on the back side of the box 1½" in from each end. (We used 1¼×1⅛" decorative box hinges. See the Buying Guide for our source.) Mark the screw hole locations and remove the hinges in order to drill the pilot holes. Reposition the hinges, and drive the screws. If desired, line the interior of the box or just the bottom with velveteen or felt, using woodworker's glue or spray adhesive to hold the material in place.

BUYING GUIDE

- **Decorative hinges and screws.** Brass-plated box hinge, catalog no. 228, mounts with #2 roundhead woodscrews (not included), $1.77 each plus $3.50 shipping ($25 minimum order). Brass-plated #2×⅜" roundhead screws, catalog no. R382, $3.50 per 100. Meisel Hardware Specialties, P.O. Box 70, Mound, MN 55364, or call 1-800-441-9870 (612-471-8550 for Minnesota residents).

Project Design: Dan Stephens Illustrations: Bill Zaun, Lippisch Design Inc. Photograph: Bob Calmer